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News Release

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Huntsville Center contractor suffers fatality in Iraq

HUNTSVILLE, Ala.— A U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center Huntsville contractor employee died in a work-related fatality on July 3rd. The employee, of USA Environmental, suffered fatal injuries while conducting demolition of unwanted ammunition in Iraq.

“Our condolences go out to the family,” said Glenn Earhart. “Our personnel are highly trained and experienced, but it remains a dangerous mission. We have logged over 3 million man-hours doing ordnance and explosives remediation in Iraq, and this is our first fatality. Worker safety remains our top priority,” emphasized Earhart.

A Department of the Army investigation is being conducted to determine the cause of the accident. Huntsville Center is a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ Center of Expertise for Ordnance and Explosives. Huntsville Center’s Coalition Munitions Clearance Program is responsible for receiving, transporting, segregating and destroying captured or any other munitions posing a danger in Iraq. Storage and disposal of the ammunition is performed at several locations throughout Iraq. To date, more than 273,000 tons of ammunition has been destroyed by the Huntsville Center program, significantly reducing risks to Iraqi citizens and U.S. personnel serving in Iraq.

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